

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 PARIS 19181 082013Z

73

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 NEA-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03

SS-20 USIA-15 SAJ-01 ACDA-19 MC-02 OMB-01 DRC-01 /139 W

----- 009211

P R 081902Z AUG 74

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1452

INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

USINT ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

USMISSION NATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 19181

BEIRUT POUCH BAGHDAD

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: FR, LY, XF, MASS, PFOR

SUBJECT: FRENCH GOVERNMENT REVIEWS MIDEAST ARMS

EMBARGO POLICY

SUMMARY: A SLIGHTLY EMBARRASSED FRENCH GOVERNMENT HAS PLEDGED TO REVIEW ITS POLICY OF ARMS SALES TO THE MIDDLE EAST FOLLOWING EGYPTIAN PRESIDENT SADAT'S ADMISSION THAT LIBYAN MIRAGE V FIGHTER BOMBERS HAVE BEEN BASED IN EGYPT SINCE THE OCTOBER WAR, CONTRARY TO A FRENCH-LIBYAN AGREEMENT. THIS REVIEW MIGHT WELL RESULT IN A DECISION TO LIFT THE ARMS EMBARGO ON "BATTLEFIELD COUNTRIES". END SUMMARY.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 PARIS 19181 082013Z

1. AFTER A MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS AUGUST 7,

GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN ANDRE ROSSI SAID THAT THE PRESENCE OF THE MIRAGES IN EGYPT (REVEALED BY SADAT'S RECENTLY PUBLISHED LETTER TO THE LIBYAN GOVERNMENT) CREATED A "NEW SITUATION" AND THAT THE GOVERNMENT "WILL DEFINE HENCEFORTH THE POLICY WHICH IT INTENDS TO FOLLOW IN THE MATTER". LATER THAT EVENING, MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS JEAN SAUVAGNARGUES SAID "IT'S A SITUATION WHICH THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT DEPLORES, BUT WHICH LEADS IT PRECISELY TO RECONSIDER THE WHOLE QUESTION".

2. AS DEPARTMENT IS AWARE, FRANCE'S JANUARY 9, 1970 AGREEMENT WITH LIBYA FORBADE THE TRANSFER OF THE PLANES TO THE FOUR "BATTLEFIELD COUNTRIES" OF JORDAN, EGYPT, SYRIA AND ISRAEL. A FEW DAYS AFTER THE SALE WAS COMPLETED, PRIME MINISTER JACQUES CHABAN-DELMAS ANNOUNCED THAT FRANCE WOULD STOP DELIVERY OF THE PLANES IF IT LEARNED THEY WERE DESTINED FOR ANOTHER COUNTRY. DURING THE OCTOBER WAR, THE MESSMER GOVERNMENT CAREFULLY SIDESTEPED ISRAELI CHARGES THAT THE LIBYAN MIRAGES HAD FOUND THEIR WAY TO EGYPT, CLAIMING THAT THERE WAS INSUFFICIENT PROOF TO SUBSTANTIATE ISRAEL'S CLAIM. ALTHOUGH THE GOF WAS LONG AWARE OF THE MISUSE OF THE MIRAGES, FRENCH REACTION TO THESE CHARGES WAS TEMPERED BY THE DESIRE TO MAINTAIN FRIENDLY TIES WITH THE ARAB STATES IN ORDER TO REASSERT FRENCH INFLUENCE IN THE MIDDLE EAST, SECURE OIL SUPPLIES, AND DEVELOP ARAB MARKETS TO PAY FOR THE MORE EXPENSIVE PETROLEUM (IRONICALLY, SADAT RELEASED THE LETTER WHEN HIS FOREIGN MINISTER WAS IN PARIS TO DISCUSS FRANCO-EGYPTIAN ECONOMIC COOPERATION).

COMMENT: ACCORDING TO A WELL-PLACED EGYPTIAN SOURCE, THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT WAS TIPPED OFF TWO DAYS IN ADVANCE THAT SADAT WAS TO MAKE THE MIRAGE AFFAIR PUBLIC. THE WIDE PUBLICITY GIVEN IN THE FRENCH PRESS TO THE AFFAIR PRESENTS GISCARD WITH AN OPPORTUNITY TO REVIEW PUBLICLY A POLICY WHICH WAS BECOMING LESS TENABLE AND HAD ALREADY BEEN UNDER QUIET STUDY BY FRENCH GOVERNMENT SPECIALISTS. WE THINK THAT THE GOF, FOLLOWING THE CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 PARIS 19181 082013Z

BRITISH PRECEDENT ESTABLISHED IN JANUARY 1974, MAY ANNOUNCE AN END TO THE ARMS EMBARGO ON "BATTLEFIELD COUNTRIES" AND RESUME MIDDLE EAST ARMS SALES ON A CASE BY CASE BASIS. IT MIGHT ATTEMPT TO CLOAK SUCH A DECISION UNDER THE MANTLE OF A SUGGESTION THAT THERE BE INTERNATIONAL ACTION TO CONTROL ARMS SALES TO THE REGION. IN ANY CASE, ISRAELI DEPENDENCE UPON AMERICAN ARMS GRANTS MAKES IT IMPROBABLE THAT ISRAEL

WOULD EMBARRASS THE FRENCH BY ARMS-SHOPPING IN PARIS.
QUAI EUROPEAN DIRECTOR DE MARGERIE GAVE POLCOUNSELOR
HIS PERSONAL VIEW AUGUST 8 THAT ARMS SALES WOULD BE
RESUMED ON A CASE-BY-CASE BASIS. END COMMENT.
STONE

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: SALES, ARMS, POLICIES, MILITARY AIRCRAFT, EMBARGOES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 08 AUG 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: cunninfx
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974PARIS19181
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740217-0495
From: PARIS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740864/aaaaccrg.tel
Line Count: 120
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: cunninfx
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 24 APR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <24 APR 2002 by martinml>; APPROVED <27 FEB 2003 by cunninfx>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FRENCH GOVERNMENT REVIEWS MIDEAST ARMS EMBARGO POLICY
TAGS: MASS, PFOR, FR, LY, XF
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005